



# Keystone Ag Digest



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Released: Early June 2010

Bi-Monthly

Vol. 10 No. 11

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This publication may be found on the Internet at <a href="http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa">www.nass.usda.gov/pa</a> and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."			

**Note to Survey Respondents:** Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

## FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF APRIL 11-17, 2010<sup>1</sup>

Item	NE II <sup>2</sup>	U. S. <sup>3</sup>
	<i>Thousands</i>	
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers .....	31	737
Expected to be Employed .....		
150 Days or More .....	25	586
149 Days or Less .....	6	151
	<i>Hours</i>	
Hours Worked		
Hired .....	40.6	39.8
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers .....	10.60	10.83
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined .....	10.00	10.13
Field .....	10.43	10.04
Livestock .....	9.12	10.31

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. <sup>2</sup> NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. <sup>3</sup> Excludes AK.

SOURCE: **Farm Labor**, 3:00 p.m. May 20, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

## HIRED WORKERS UP 10 PERCENT, WAGE RATES DOWN FRACTIONALLY FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 997,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2010, up 10 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 737,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 260,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.83 per hour during the April 2010 reference week, down 1 cent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.04 per hour, up 5 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.31 per hour compared with \$10.25 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.13 per hour, was up 6 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. Weather conditions in all three of these regions were considerably drier than last year's very wet and muddy reference week. This allowed spring fieldwork and planting activities to progress rapidly. Therefore, the demand for hired workers was much higher.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. In the Southern Plains region, heavy rains and flooding occurred in parts of Texas, halting most field activities and lowering the demand for hired workers. Insufficient soil moisture in the Southeast region kept field preparation and planting of spring crops behind normal. This reduced the need for hired workers. In the Mountain III region, vegetable harvest was winding down. Therefore, fewer hired workers were required.

Hired worker wage rates were generally below a year ago in most regions. The largest decreases occurred in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Northeast II, Corn Belt I, Lake, Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. In the Corn Belt I and II and Appalachian I regions, the lower wages were due to a higher percentage of part time workers. There were more salaried workers working more hours in the Northeast II and Pacific regions. This kept hourly wage levels below a year earlier. In the Lake region, reduced demand for highly skilled workers on dairies led to the lower average wage.

SOURCE: **Farm Labor**, 3:00 p.m. May 20, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

## PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MAY 2010

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MAY 2010							
Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		May 2009	Apr 2010	May 2010 <sup>1</sup>	May 2009	Apr 2010	May 2010 <sup>1</sup>
Dollars							
Corn.....	Bu.	4.61	3.74	3.73	3.96	3.41	3.41
Wheat, Winter <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	5.52	4.19	4.10
Oats.....	Bu.	3.16	2.99	2.98	2.64	2.25	2.04
Barley <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	4.59	4.11	3.93
Soybeans <sup>2</sup> .....	Bu.	-	-	-	10.70	9.47	9.28
Hay, Dry All .....	Ton	140.00	119.00	117.00	130.00	109.00	116.00
Dry Alfalfa .....	Ton	162.00	135.00	130.00	137.00	113.00	121.00
Dry Other.....	Ton	136.00	115.00	115.00	112.00	99.30	99.70
Apples, Fresh Use .....	Lb.	-	0.325	0.346	0.187	0.300	0.318
Cows, Slaughter .....	Cwt.	50.50	53.10	56.20	48.80	57.50	59.50
Steers & Heifers .....	Cwt.	83.50	90.80	93.20	87.70	101.00	101.00
Calves.....	Cwt.	105.00	102.00	103.00	111.00	122.00	123.00
Barrows & Gilts.....	Cwt.	43.40	54.50	59.70	44.60	56.60	62.50
Sows.....	Cwt.	46.90	55.90	60.80	43.30	53.20	58.80
Sheep.....	Cwt.	39.00	65.00	-	31.70	48.70	-
Lambs.....	Cwt.	125.00	130.00	-	102.00	119.00	-
Eggs <sup>3</sup> .....	Doz.	0.470	<sup>6</sup>	<sup>6</sup>	0.418	0.599	0.441
Milk, Fluid Grade .....	Cwt.	13.40	16.30	-	11.60	14.60	15.00
Manufactured Grade <sup>4</sup> .....	Cwt.	-	-	-	10.60	13.30	13.50
All.....	Cwt.	13.40	16.30	16.60	11.60	14.60	15.00
Milk Cows <sup>5</sup> .....	Head	-	1,400.00	-	-	1,330.00	-

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. <sup>3</sup> Aprket (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer.

<sup>4</sup> PA is no longer published due to insufficient manufacturing grade milk volume. <sup>5</sup> Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul, Oct.). <sup>6</sup> PA is no longer publishing monthly market eggs prices.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., Aprch 30, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

### MAY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 3 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 141 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 3 points (2.2 percent) from April. The Crop Index is up 1 point (0.7 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 4 points (3.1 percent). Producers received higher prices for lettuce, broilers, hogs, and strawberries and lower prices for onions, eggs, sweet corn, and tomatoes. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of sweet corn, broilers, grapes, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, apples, and corn.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (8.5 percent) from May 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 142, increased 3 points (2.2 percent) from last month and increased 16 points (13 percent) from May 2009.

**Feed Grains & Hay:** The May index is 149, up 0.7 percent from last month but 14 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$3.41 per bushel, is unchanged from last month but down 55 cents from May 2009. The all hay price, at \$116 per ton, is up \$7.00 from April but down \$14.00 from last May.

**Livestock & Products:** The May index, at 132, is 3.1 percent above last month and up 17 percent from May 2009. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, milk, hogs, broilers, turkeys, calves, and eggs.

**Dairy Products:** The May index, at 115, is up 2.7 percent from a month ago and 29 percent higher than May last year. The May all milk price of \$15.00 per cwt is up 40 cents from last month and \$3.40 from May 2009. The fluid grade milk price increased 40 cents and the manufacturing grade milk price 20 cents from the previous month.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., May 28, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

### U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS<sup>1</sup>

Commodity	Unit	May 2008	Apr 2009	May 2009
<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat.....	Bu.	13.60	14.50	14.60
Corn .....	Bu.	8.37	9.04	9.08
All Milk, Sold to Plants <sup>2</sup> .....	Cwt.	44.80	44.50	44.70
Wool.....	Lb.	1.92	2.07	2.07
Barley .....	Bu.	9.15	10.10	10.20
Oats.....	Bu.	5.53	5.93	5.95
Potatoes.....	Cwt.	19.20	20.30	20.30
Rye.....	Bu.	10.60	11.50	11.60
Soybeans.....	Bu.	20.40	22.30	22.40
Apples, For Fresh Use <sup>3</sup> .....	Lb.	0.774	0.802	0.805
Beef Cattle .....	Cwt.	239.00	248.00	249.00
Calves .....	Cwt.	342.00	350.00	351.00
Hogs.....	Cwt.	131.00	135.00	135.00
Lambs .....	Cwt.	270.00	280.00	281.00
Sheep.....	Cwt.	104.00	106.00	106.00
Eggs.....	Doz.	2.13	2.21	2.22
Turkeys, Live.....	Lb.	1.310	1.360	1.370

<sup>1</sup> Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956.

<sup>2</sup> Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price.

<sup>3</sup> Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only). Price at point of first sale for other states.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., May 28, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

**APRIL 30, 2010**

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 1,689,500 bushels on April 30, 2010 compared to 1,988,000 bushels on April 30, 2009. The three largest varieties in storage on April 30, 2010 were: York, 502,000 bushels; Golden Delicious, 382,500 bushels; and Rome, 287,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 70,959,000 pounds on April 30, 2010, compared to 83,496,000 pounds on April 30, 2009.

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2010 were greater than year earlier levels for eggs and cheese.

Butter stocks were up 6 percent from last month but down 14 percent from a year ago.

SOURCE: **Cold Storage**, 3:00 p.m., May 21, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

## **STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES**

Commodity	Apr 30, 2009	Mar 31, 2010	Apr 30, 2010
	(000) Lbs.		
Butter .....	240,044	195,888	207,578
Cheese, Total Natural .....	938,914	994,459	1,011,658
Eggs, Frozen.....	18,241	21,623	22,540
Poultry, Total Frozen .....	1,235,357	999,549	1,049,873
Chicken .....	658,243	616,158	623,924
Turkeys .....	571,708	379,720	422,198
Fruits, Frozen.....	916,769	1,014,457	974,346
Fruit Juices, Frozen.....	1,813,528	1,654,144	1,733,988
Vegetables, Total Frozen .....	1,716,761	1,959,773	1,793,059
Potatoes, Total Frozen .....	1,221,351	1,100,472	1,095,236
Meats, Total Frozen .....	1,050,603	921,753	878,920
Beef, Total Frozen.....	410,705	384,596	373,313
Pork, Total Frozen.....	612,290	513,066	482,524

SOURCES: **Cold Storage**, 3:00 p.m., May 21, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

## **PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE (BUSHEL), APRIL 2010**

Variety	April 30, 2009					April 30, 2010				
	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	Bushels									
Braeburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cortland	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	1,000	0	0	1,000
Empire	0	7,500	0	0	7,500	500	29,000	14,000	0	43,500
Fuji	500	5,500	0	41,500	47,500	0	22,000	3,000	11,500	36,500
Gala	500	500	0	24,000	25,000	0	500	0	0	500
Golden Delicious	0	139,000	500	195,000	334,500	1,000	102,500	143,000	136,000	382,500
Granny Smith	13,000	6,000	0	103,000	122,000	2,500	0	0	123,500	126,000
Idared	0	3,000	0	66,500	69,500	0	0	5,500	1,500	7,000
Jonagold	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	12,500	1,500	0	14,000
Jonathan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	3,000
McIntosh	0	1,500	0	1,000	2,500	0	2,000	0	2,000	4,000
Mutsu/Crispin	0	7,500	0	0	7,500	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
Northern Spy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pink Lady	1,000	1,000	0	0	2,000	500	0	0	0	500
Red Delicious	1,000	140,000	32,000	78,500	251,500	2,000	109,000	36,500	58,500	206,000
Rome	0	58,000	0	410,000	468,000	1,000	16,000	37,500	232,500	287,000
Rome Sport	0	2,000	500	26,500	29,000	0	1,500	26,000	1,500	29,000
Spartan	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	0	1,500
Stayman	500	2,000	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	0
Winesap	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
York	0	0	0	578,000	578,000	0	0	19,500	182,500	502,000
All Other Varieties	0	6,000	0	24,500	30,500	500	6,000	23,000	500	30,000
Not Segregated	0	0	2,000	4,500	6,500	0	0	8,500	3,000	11,500
All Varieties	16,500	383,500	35,000	1,553,000	1,988,000	8,000	303,500	322,000	1,056,000	1,689,500

<sup>1</sup> Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. SOURCE: **Cold Storage**, 3:00 p.m., April 22, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

## **APPLE STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES**

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	April 30, 2009	March 31, 2010	April 30, 2010
<b>Pennsylvania</b>			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	2,163,000	31,668,000	13,860,000
Controlled Atmosphere	81,333,000	75,579,000	57,099,000
<b>TOTAL APPLES</b>	<b>83,496,000</b>	<b>107,247,000</b>	<b>70,959,000</b>
<b>United States</b>			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	161,150,000	297,891,000	179,946,000
Controlled Atmosphere	1,929,101,000	2,311,904,000	1,753,241,000
<b>TOTAL APPLES</b>	<b>2,090,251,000</b>	<b>2,609,795,000</b>	<b>1,933,187,000</b>

SOURCE: **Cold Storage**, 3:00 p.m., April 22, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

## MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Apr 2009	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	Apr 2009	Mar 2010	Apr 2010
Layers .....	Thous.	22,774	23,622	23,539	340,170	340,869	339,946
Eggs Per 100 Layers .....	Number	2,380	2,489	2,426	2,197	2,292	2,220
Eggs Produced .....	Million	542	588	571	7,472	7,813	7,547
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type .....	Thous.	13,437	13,463	13,282	758,663	786,954	767,225
Chick Hatch-Egg Type <sup>1</sup> .....	Thous.	-	-	-	42,794	45,151	47,503
Turkey Poults Placed .....	Thous.	-	-	-	23,989	23,007	24,375

<sup>1</sup> April 2009 state level data for egg-type chicks hatched will no longer be published.

SOURCES: **Chickens and Eggs**, 3:00 p.m., May 21, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).  
**Turkey Hatchery**, 3:00 p.m., May 16, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usd.gov](http://www.nass.usd.gov).

### EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during April 2010 totaled 571 million eggs, up 5 percent from the 542 million eggs produced in April 2009. The total number of layers averaged 23.5 million during April, a three percent increase from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,426 eggs during the month, an increase of 46 eggs overall from April 2009. Broiler-type chicks hatched in Pennsylvania totaled 13.3 million during April 2010, down one percent from the same month last year.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.55 billion during April 2010, up one percent from last year. Production included 6.47 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.00 billion were broiler-type and 74 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2010 averaged 340 million, a slight decrease from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,220 eggs, an increase of 23 eggs from April 2009.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2010 totaled 47.5 million, up 11 percent from April 2009. Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2010 totaled 767 million, up one percent from April 2009. There were 24.4 million net poults placed during April 2010 in the United States, up 2 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier.

*County estimates for 2009 can now be found online for barley, corn, oats, soybeans and wheat.*

Check out NASS's homepage at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on 'QuickSTATS'



### COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APR 2010

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod....	Million pounds	103.6	4,012.9
Cattle .....	1,000 Head	75.6	2,847.1
	1,000 pounds live	93,775	3,553,969
Calves .....	1,000 Head	10.3	68.5
	1,000 pounds live	4,415	18,659
Hogs .....	1,000 Head	235.9	9,054.1
	1,000 pounds live	61,559	2,466,226
Sheep & Lambs ...	1,000 Head	3.4	190.7
	1,000 pounds live	312	25,972

SOURCE: **Livestock Slaughter**, 8:30 a.m. May 21, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

### LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during April 2010 totaled 103.6 million pounds, down 3 percent from April 2009, and down 14 percent from the March estimate of 120.1 million pounds. Beef production, at 93.8 million pounds live weight, down 4 percent from April 2009. Total head slaughtered was 75,600, down 3 percent from a year ago. Live weight averaged 1,257 pounds, down 7 pounds from last year. Veal production was 4.4 million pounds live weight, down 2 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 10,300 head was down 4 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 6 pounds per head to 430 pounds. Pork production was 61.6 million pounds live weight, down 1 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 235,900, down 3 percent from April 2009. Average live weight increased 4 pounds per head from last year to 261 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during April 2010 was 312,000 pounds live weight, down 43 percent from last year. The number slaughtered was 3,400, down 44 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 4 pounds per head to 93 pounds.

SOURCE: **Livestock Slaughter**, 8:30 a.m. May 21, 2010, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA; available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).